

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lu (U.S. 6,230,365).

Drawings

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended claim 7 and added new claims 8 and 9 to this application. Claim 7 has been amended to add the subject matter of original claim 4. It is believed that the new claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The cited reference to Lu discloses a hinge for a notebook computer including a flexible sleeve (16) having a flat distal edge (17) and a straight lower portion (18), and a pintle (15) having a first section (150) and a first chamber (151). Lu states, column 2, lines 22-27:

The flexible sleeve (16) has a cross-section substantially shaped as a question mark and includes a straight lower portion (18) and an upper portion shaped as an incomplete circle, whereby a gap is defined between a flat distal edge (17) of the upper portion and the lower portion (18).

Lu teaches the gap formed between the flat distal edge and the lower portion, but does not teach a gap between the circular section and the arched section. Lu teaches a straight lower portion extending from one end of the upper portion shaped as an incomplete circle, but does not teach a fitting part extending from a middle portion of the circular section.

Lu states, column 2, lines 31-34:

Furthermore, the first section (150) has a first chamber (151) axially formed along the outer periphery thereof and configured to matingly abut the flat distal edge of the sleeve (16).

Lu teaches a first chamber abutting the flat distal edge of the sleeve, but does not teach a free end of the arched section releasably engages the middle section of the cylindrical rod in the locked state. Lu does not teach the fitting part has an inverted T-shape.

It is axiomatic in U.S. patent law that, in order for a reference to anticipate a claimed structure, it must clearly disclose each and every feature of the claimed structure. Applicant submits that it is abundantly clear that Lu does not disclose each and every feature of Applicant's claims and, therefore, could not possibly anticipate these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102. Specifically, Lu does not teach a fitting part extending from a middle portion of the circular section; a gap between the circular section and the arched section; a free end of the arched section releasably engages the milled section of the cylindrical rod in the locked state; nor does Lu teach the fitting part has a reversed T-shape. Absent a specific showing of these features, Lu cannot be said to anticipate any of Applicant's claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It is further submitted that Lu does not disclose or suggest any modification of the specifically disclosed structures that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at Applicant's claimed structure. Thus, it is not believed that Lu renders obvious any of Applicant's claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Application No. 10/040,481

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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FINAL SEARCH DATE

DELIVER TO GOV'T DATE

1/8/04
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